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10/12/93

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Northwood Man Forming Local Chapter Of Wallenberg Committee

A Northwood man is organizing a local chapter of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States.

Robert Karp, Lakewood Dr., said that he is forming a local Wallenberg committee in an effort to "keep Wallenberg's story alive and use him as a symbol of moral courage in the face of danger."

Mr. Karp said he will also work to bring an exhibit of Wallenberg's life to the Toledo area.

Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, is credited with saving the lives of thousands of persons from death at the hands of Nazis during World War II.

While on a diplomatic mission to Budapest, Hungary, Wallenberg was reportedly taken prisoner by Soviet forces entering the city in January, 1945. Since then his life has been shrouded by mystery. The Soviets have issued statements that he died soon after his arrest only to later say that he died in a

Moscow prison.

A 1935 graduate of the University of Michigan, Wallenberg was born into a wealthy Swedish Lutheran family of bankers and diplomats. He had gone to Budapest at the behest of the American War Refugee Board.

In 1981 he was made an honorary American citizen and the U.S. entered the Wallenberg case by settling it before a conference reviewing the Helsinki Agreements.

In 1982, he head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, with the backing of the Swedish government, proposed an U.N. Group to establish the whereabouts of Wallenberg, but the Soviets have not responded.

Mr. Karp said the Wallenberg exhibit consists of 23, 48-inch panels of photographs and documents and that the exhibit made a nationwide tour last

year.

He has contacted members of the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Northwest Ohio and Jewish service organizations about the formation of a local Wallenberg committee.

"The photos and texts in the exhibit require contemplation on the part of the viewer," Mr. Karp said.

"It is not just visual. You have to read."

Costs of bringing the exhibit to Toledo would be borne by the committee

chapter, Mr. Karp said, and viewing would be free to the public.

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the U.S. is a non-profit organization based in New York city and was created to bring public attention to Wallenberg's fate.

Persons interested in forming a local chapter should contact Mr. Karp at 698-1521 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday-Friday.

8-21-86

Senator,

Would certainly welcome your membership in the N.W. Ohio Chapter Wallenberg Committee.

Robert Karp
Wallenberg Chapter

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